

**WORLD’S LEADING ACADEMIC RESEARCH INITIATIVE for cryptocurrencies and contracts (IC3) ADDS toP RESEARCHERS in EUropE and USA**

*Growth in IC3 Underscores Robust Research Agenda to Future Proof Emerging Blockchain Solutions and Inform Fintech Public Policy and Regulations*

New York City, London, Zurich, Lausanne – October 31, 2017 – Eminent faculty at ETH Zurich, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), and University College London (UCL) are joining the Initiative for Cryptocurrencies and Contracts (IC3), which includes [leading finance and technology companies](http://www.initc3.org/partners.html) and faculty members at Cornell University, Cornell Tech, UC Berkeley, the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign (UIUC), and the Technion. The partnership is anticipated to transform tomorrow’s financial systems to be much more flexible, transparent, efficient and secure.

New faculty members in Europe include:

* + - * Srdjan Capkun, Full Professor in the Department of Computer Science, ETH Zurich and Director of the Zurich Information Security and Privacy Center
* Bryan Ford, Associate Professor, leads the Decentralized/Distributed Systems (DEDIS) lab at EPFL.
* Sarah Meiklejohn, Associate Professor, in the departments of Computer Science and Security and Crime Science at UCL.

Also, joining her IC3 colleagues from Cornell is one of the world’s leading financial researchers:

* Maureen O’Hara, the Robert W. Purcell Professor of Finance at the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University.

“IC3 was founded to advance blockchain science, technology and applications,” said Ari Juels, co-Director of IC3 and Professor at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech in New York City. “We’re delighted to work more closely with this preeminent researchers, who share our vision of blockchain-based solutions for next generation financial services.”

Emin Gün Sirer, co-Director of IC3 and Associate Professor at Cornell University commented, ”This expansion will bring fresh new perspectives into IC3, growing our research portfolio and reach, and expanding us geographically to those places on the globe where exciting new blockchain deployment developments are taking place.”

Andrew Miller, Associate Director of IC3, and an Assistant Professor at UIUC stated, “IC3 has been leading the world in on-chain and off-chain scaling, new consensus algorithms, cryptocurrency security, smart contract services and development. These colleagues bring their expertise in forensics, privacy, and cryptoeconomics to this nascent field. We're very excited about the collaboration opportunities.”

Ittay Eyal, Associate Director of IC3, and Assistant Professor at the Technion said, ”I’m looking forward to working more closely with Srdjan, Bryan, Sarah and Maureen. Expected outcomes of our work include new cryptocurrency and smart contract solutions that are easy to program and formally verifiable, with provable security properties that meet industry’s expectations for efficiency and reliability.”

Srdjan Capkun commented, “IC3 brings together a large talent pool of researchers around a very promising topic. I am excited to be representing ETH Zurich and our security center in IC3 and looking forward to many joint projects.”

Bryan Ford stated, "I am thrilled to work more closely with the stellar team of researchers at IC3, who collectively answer the urgent need in the blockchain community for world-class academic expertise in technology, economics, and policy. This combination of leading-edge expertise will be essential in enabling blockchain technology to fulfill the promise it has inspired across innumerable sectors of business and society."

Sarah Meiklejohn said, “As a researcher in this area, I have of course been aware of IC3 for several years now, and am honored and excited to be joining their ranks.  I really look forward to future collaborations and to tackling the big problems in developing effective blockchain solutions together.”

Maureen O’Hara commented, “I am delighted to be joining the researchers at IC3 in working on what I believe are some of the most important and exciting research issues.  As a finance professor, I see tremendous potential for the blockchain to transform the financial system and the work of IC3 can lead that transformation.”

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**About IC3**

IC3 ([www.initc3.org](http://www.initc3.org)) is an initiative of faculty members at Cornell University, Cornell Tech, EPFL, ETH Zurich, UC Berkeley, University College London, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Technion. IC3 offers world-class expertise in computer science that spans cryptography, distributed systems, game theory, programming languages, and system security techniques. IC3’s innovations include new blockchain, smart contract, and cryptocurrency technologies that offer both the scientifically rigorous security properties and the robustness, performance, and reliability demanded by practitioners for tomorrow’s financial systems of execution and record.

IC3 is based at the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech in New York City. For information about joining IC3, please see <http://www.initc3.org/partners.html>

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